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February 18, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 153 – January 2020 Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Inve

Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

(RI/FS)

**CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009** 

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

## (a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

#### Meetings/Conference Calls

- On January 21, EPA Region 2 (Region 2) and CPG held a teleconference to discuss the status of the Bioaccumulation Model calibration.
- On January 27, Region 2 and CPG held a meeting to discuss the status of the Draft Upper
   9-Mile Interim Remedy Feasibility Study (IR FS) and project schedule.

#### Correspondence

- On January 6, Region 2 requested an update on the status of the 2019 Current Conditions Sampling biota samples form CPG.
- On January 7, CPG requested to schedule a meeting with Region 2 regarding anticipated Contaminated Sediment Technical Advisory Group (CSTAG)/National Remedy Review Board (NRRB) recommendations.
- On January 8, CPG and Region 2 consultants exchanged emails regarding data uploads.

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- On January 8, CPG requested approval from Region 2 for modifications to the Current Conditions Sampling crab compositing plan due to the available tissue volumes.
- On January 8, CPG provided Region 2 an update to the laboratory processing schedule for the 2019 Current Conditions Sampling biota composite tissue samples.
- On January 9, Region 2 accepted the CPG's proposed changes to the Current Conditions Sampling crab compositing plan.
- On January 14, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the status of Region 2's review of the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS source sediment definition.
- On January 14, Region 2 provided CPG comments from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on Appendix H to the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On January 15, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the status of the proposed new model metrics for the FS.
- On January 15, CPG delivered the December Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On January 21, Region 2 consultants provided CPG presentation materials for the scheduled Bioaccumulation Model teleconference.
- On January 21, Region 2 submitted a memorandum to CPG with comments on the December 2019 Proposed IR FS Model Metrics.
- On January 21, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the status of Region 2 split samples for Current Conditions Sampling biota tissue composites.
- On January 22, CPG indicated that there were no questions on the memorandum regarding the December 2019 Proposed Model Metrics to Region 2.
- On January 23, CPG provided Region 2 an attendee list and proposed agenda for the scheduled January 27 meeting regarding the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS and project schedule.
- On January 24, Region 2 requested the initial conditions datafile for the Newark Bay Model from CPG.
- On January 28, CPG provided Region 2 a zip file with the geodatabase and readme file for the 2010 dataset used to create the Newark Bay Model initial conditions.
- On January 28, CPG provided a status update on the Current Conditions Sampling biota tissue sample processing to Region 2.

#### Work

- CPG continued work on supplemental modeling projections for the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG continued reviewing and response to Region 2 comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG continued field work for the Physical Water Column Monitoring (PWCM) component of Current Conditions Sampling.
- CPG continued analysis of PWCM and Small Volume Chemical Water Column (SV CWCM).
- CPG continued validation of PWCM and SV CWCM data.



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- CPG continued developing the QAPP for the Current Conditions High Volume (HV) CWCM program.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG initiated compositing Current Conditions Sampling biota tissue samples.

### (b) Results of Sampling and Tests

 On January 10, CPG uploaded validated an Electronic Data Deliverable (EDD) for validated data from the Current Conditions PWCM program, sampling round 3 (September 2019) and CWCM program, sampling rounds 1 and 2 (August and September 2019) events and unvalidated data for the CWCM program to the EPA SharePoint site.

## (c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG will continue to respond to comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG will continue developing the HV CWCM QAPP.
- CPG will continue analysis and validation of PWCM and SV CWCM samples and data.
- CPG will continue supplemental modeling projections for the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG will continue compositing the Current Conditions Sampling biota tissue samples and begin analysis of the composites.

# (d) <u>Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.</u>

CPG needs to receive Region 2's responses to the CPG's IR FS RTCs, Region 2 comments on the Draft IR FS Appendices D and H (Adaptive Management and IR Completion) and Region 2's responses to the January 31 CSTAG/NRRB Recommendations as soon as possible in order to complete the IR FS in a timely manner.

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.

Willard Potter CPG Project Coordinator Ms. D. Salkie LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 153 – January 2020 February 18, 2020 Page 4 of 4

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel Lisa Baron, USACE Clay Stern, USFWS Reyhan Mehran, NOAA Jay Nickerson, NJDEP Beth Franklin, USACE Laura Kelmar, AECOM David Marabello, CDM-Smith Scott Kirchner, CDM-Smith